

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please CANCEL claim 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (previously presented) A terminal, operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on an individual self contained computer readable content medium, the content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served and sold;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requestor for submitting a request when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time, to the center for obtaining use of the content.

2. (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a locked content requestable calendar sales period thereof; and

a key receiver for receiving a key for unlocking the locked content.

3. (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to the center when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

4. (previously presented) A sales system comprising:

a terminal, operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, the terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent computer readable content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a content can be served and sold by submitting a request to a center;

a present calendar time generator for generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requestor submitting a request to the center for obtaining use of the content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a key for unlocking the content when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

5. (previously presented) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the requestable calendar sales period of time of the content.

6. (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said terminal further comprises a second comparator comparing an requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time and determining whether the present calendar time is within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

7. (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

a disk for storing the contents; and

an installer installing a loader for the content.

8. (previously presented) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:
a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents;
and

wherein said terminal further comprising:

a second comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the serving period and determining whether the serving period lies within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

9. (previously presented) A self contained computer readable storage medium which contains locked content, a requestable calendar sales period concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein the program operates in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section,

wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period or falls outside the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests to the center for obtaining use of the locked content when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time; and

uses a key to unlock, serve and sell the locked content stored thereon when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

10. (previously presented) A self contained computer readable storage medium including both locked content and a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content, the storage device is accessed by a computer, wherein the computer operates in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section,

wherein said computer:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;
generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;
compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time or falls outside of said requestable calendar sales period of time;

requests a key from the center; and

uses the key to unlock the locked content stored thereon when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time to allow access to, serve and sell the locked content if the judging determines the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

11. (previously presented) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the requestable calendar sales period of time is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending calendar sales time interval.

12. (previously presented) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program, which operates in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, and which performs the following functions:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a calendar period of time during which a locked content on the medium can be served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time or falls outside of said requestable calendar sales period of time; and

sends a requestor to request a key for the locked content if the judging determines the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time, to the center for obtaining use of the locked content.

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13. (previously presented) A terminal, operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales

period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, the terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a self contained computer readable content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored on the content medium can be served and sold;

a clock for indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator which determines if the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for a key for the locked content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time, to the center for obtaining use of the locked content.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists using a self contained independent computer readable medium operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving calendar period of time;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting a key from the center to serve and sell the locked content when the comparing determines that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

16. (previously presented) A storage device readable by a computer operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

accessing said program; and

using a requestor for submitting a request for a key when the requestable calendar sales period of time is compared with the present calendar time and it is determined that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time, the request made to the center for serving and selling use of the locked content..

17. (previously presented) A self contained independent computer readable storage medium operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, comprising:

a locked content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;

a requestable calendar sales period of time data stored with the locked content on the medium indicating a requestable calendar sales period of time during which the locked content can be accessed by the user;

a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the locked content by the user if a present calendar date falls outside of the requestable calendar sales period of time indicated by the requestable calendar sales period of time data; and

a requesting unit for submitting a request for a key when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the locked content, the request submitted to the center for serving and selling use of the locked content.

18. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations, the computer program operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be

served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the locked content, when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests the center for a key to obtain use of the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

19. (previously presented) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists using a self contained computer readable storage medium operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating a requestable calendar sales period of time;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting the center for a key to serve and sell use of a locked content stored on the medium storing the requestable calendar sales period of time to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

20. (previously presented) A terminal, operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, the terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can

be served and sold;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requestor for submitting a request to the center for a key to access the locked content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

21. (previously presented) A terminal, operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, the terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium can be served and sold;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requesting unit requesting a key for a service of the locked content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

22. (previously presented) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains locked content, a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer, the program operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period directly from the storage medium;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales

period of time or falls outside the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests a key from the center to serve and sell use of the locked content if the judging judges that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

23. (previously presented) A self contained computer readable storage medium readable by a computer, the self contained computer readable storage medium operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, the self contained computer readable storage medium comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on the medium including a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time; and

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

accesses said program; and

requests a key from the center for service and selling of the locked content when the requestable calendar sales period of time is compared with the present calendar time and it is determined that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

24. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program, the computer program operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, wherein the computer program performs the following operations:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the locked content, when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests a key from the center to unlock the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

25. (previously presented) A method for ascertaining whether a sales period exists, using a self contained computer readable storage medium operating in conjunction with a center, the center having a database registered with a sales period set on each content, a database sales period reading section, a present time-sales period determining section and a key supplying section, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which the computer readable storage medium can be served and sold;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the storage medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting a key from the center for retrieval of a locked content stored on the storage medium when said comparing determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.